



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Representatives of the Alaska salmon canning industry have requested Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes to begin plans at once for a resumption next year of the concentration plan under which the industry is successfully operating this season.

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Deputy Coordinator, reported today to Coordinator Ickes that at a meeting of salmon canners, together with representatives of both fishermen and cannery workers, it was voted to request the Coordinator to appoint a committee to work out plans for the season of 1944.

Mr. Ickes has agreed to the appointment of the committee and it will begin its work as far in advance of next year's operations as possible.

Dr. Gabrielson reported that both industry and labor felt that the concentration plan had worked out well and that a similar arrangement would again be necessary if the manpower and materials situations in Alaska continued tense due to war conditions.

The Alaska salmon canning industry is the Territory's most important business enterprise and employer of labor. Decidedly seasonal, the industry must import the majority of its labor, materials, and equipment. With limited supplies of labor and equipment available, due to the war, it became necessary to institute the Concentration Plan under which the industry centered its operations in its most efficient plants, and which provided for a sort of rationing of transportation, floating equipment, and labor among the various producers.

"Without the concentration plan," Dr. Gabrielson told Mr. Ickes, "the industry would have become involved in ruinous competition for labor, transportation space, and equipment. As it turned out, the industry was able to produce more canned salmon by operating fewer plants, with much less labor, and less equipment than would have been used under normal conditions.

"Neither the industry nor the government wishes to continue such controlled operations any longer than necessary, but so long as such controls are required, I am glad to see that they can work smoothly and with the cooperation of both industry and labor. All things considered, I feel that we have a right to be proud of the job that has been done this season."